

REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated May 2, 2005. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application, with claim 1 as the only independent claim. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are amended herein. Claim 20 has previously been cancelled.

Claims 13-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in the final Office Action, claims 1-9, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda (U.S. Patent No. 5,004,899) in view of McLeroy (U.S. Patent No. 5,257,656). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda and McLeroy, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended in order to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing to the adequacy of the rejection, distinctly define the present invention from any of the references of record, taken alone or in combination. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to define that “the second section of the foldable transaction card unfolds outside the housing when the housing is opened.” In the Examiner’s reasons for allowance of claims 13-17, he stated, “The prior art of record fails to teach that the second section of the card unfolds outside the housing when the housing is opened.” (See Para. 4, p. 7, Final Office Action dated May 2, 2005). Therefore, Applicants have amended the claims to incorporate this feature into independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1. These claims are further believed allowable over the references of record for the same reasons set forth above with respect to their parent claim because each sets forth additional elements of Applicants’ novel foldable transaction card system.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that neither further search nor consideration would be necessitated by entry of this Amendment. Therefore, entry is proper and should be effected.

If, however, any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants request the Examiner to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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